true when Taft became conservative in dealing with the Philippine problem. What is more important, however, is that Taft, who was mainly responsible for the inauguration of the Philippine Government, declared that the national policy was to govern the Philippine Islands for the benefit and welfare of the people of the Islands, and gradually to extend to them, as they showed themselves fit to exercise it, a greater measure of popular self-government. This has meant the evolution of a government of Americans assisted by Filipinos into a government of Filipinos assisted by Americans and the preparation of the people for future independence.

With the election of President Woodrow Wilson and with the inauguration of Francis Burton Harrison as Governor-General of the Philippine Islands, American policy took a turn toward the left center. The President appointed a majority of Filipinos to the Philippine Commission and so Filipinized the Philippine Legislature. Governor-General Harrison on the day of his arrival in Manila delivered to the satisfaction of the Filipinos a message from the President which began, "We regard ourselves as trustees, acting, not for the advantage of the United States, but for the benefit of the people of the Philippine Islands. Every step we take will be taken with a view to ultimate independence, and we hope to move towards that end as rapidly as the safety and the permanent interests of the Islands will permit." Governor-General Harrison continuing his Inaugural

Address coined a phrase of his own which became historical: "People of the Philippine Islands, a new era is dawning." Thereafter, the Jones Law was enacted, and Secretary of War Newton D. Baker addressed to Governor-General Harrison a covering letter relating to the administration of the Philippines under the new Organic Act. The purport of the letter was to forestall too radical developments, but apparently it was disregarded, or at least kept secret, for it was only in December,